



Improving Life  
Opportunities for  
Youth, Families,  
and Communities  
of Color

# Overview of Successful DMC Jurisdictions

## Louisville, Kentucky

### August 11, 2011



# The W. Haywood Burns Institute

2

## □ **Components:**

- Site Based Work
- Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY)

## □ **Philosophy:**

- Incarceration is harmful
- Data is key
- Local communities can play a critical role in juvenile justice reform

# BI Strategy for Reducing Disparities

Ongoing Process

- Identify whether and to what extent disproportionality exists
- Identify target populations and analyze impact on youth of color
- Dig deeper into target populations to learn more about local policy/practice/procedures contributing to DMC
- Strategize about policy/practice change needed to reduce detention utilization for target populations
- Implement a strategy (policy/practice)
- Monitor effectiveness of each strategy in reducing racial and ethnic disparities
- Document changes in **reducing disparities**



# Essential Components Needed for Success

- ❑ Leadership
- ❑ Collaborative/Governance Structure
- ❑ Creating a Safe Space
- ❑ Defining the It
- ❑ Consensus on the Purpose of Detention
- ❑ Clear Definition of Success
- ❑ Data Driven



# Collaborative Structure

5

- ▣ Identify the collaborative mission and purpose
- ▣ Identify appropriate stakeholders
  - Involvement of Supervisors/Line Staff
  - Community Involvement
- ▣ Ensure capacity to access and analyze data
- ▣ Ensure capacity and will to modify policy and practices based on data
- ▣ Think through consequences of meeting location and time

# Creating a Safe Space: Avoiding the Wrong Conversations

1. Global Conversation
2. Blame Game
3. Culture of Politeness



# Avoid the Global Conversation

- Racial and ethnic disparities are caused by:
  - Racism
  - Poverty
  - Levels of Criminality



# Avoid the Blame Game

## □ It's the fault of...

- the kids
- the parents
- the community
- society at large
- music videos
- television
- the police
- judges
- the mayor
- the governor
- the President
- racism
- subtle discrimination
- overt discrimination
- the “system”
- drugs,
- guns
- poor education
- inadequate housing
- the schools
- the kids
- the families
- the community



# Avoid the “Culture of Politeness”

- The Culture of Politeness:
  - ▣ Avoids uncomfortable discussions (race, ethnicity and gender)
  - ▣ Maintains the Status Quo  
(disproportionality, inappropriate detention, and disparate outcomes)



# Defining the “It”



- Has the Collaborative achieved consensus regarding what is meant by working on racial and ethnic disparities (or DMC)?

# Consensus on Purpose of Detention

11

- Statutory
- Risk of Flight/Re-offense
  - ▣ Policy v. Discretionary Holds
- Stabilization/No Other Alternative
- Provision of Services
- Punishment

# What Does Success Look Like

12

- Meeting regularly
- Able to obtain previously unobtainable data
- Engaging community partners
- Reducing Arrests
- *Reducing rate of Youth of Color detained?*
- *Reducing Numbers of Youth of Color in Detention?*
- *Reducing the Inappropriate Detention of Youth of Color?*

# A Couple of Case Studies

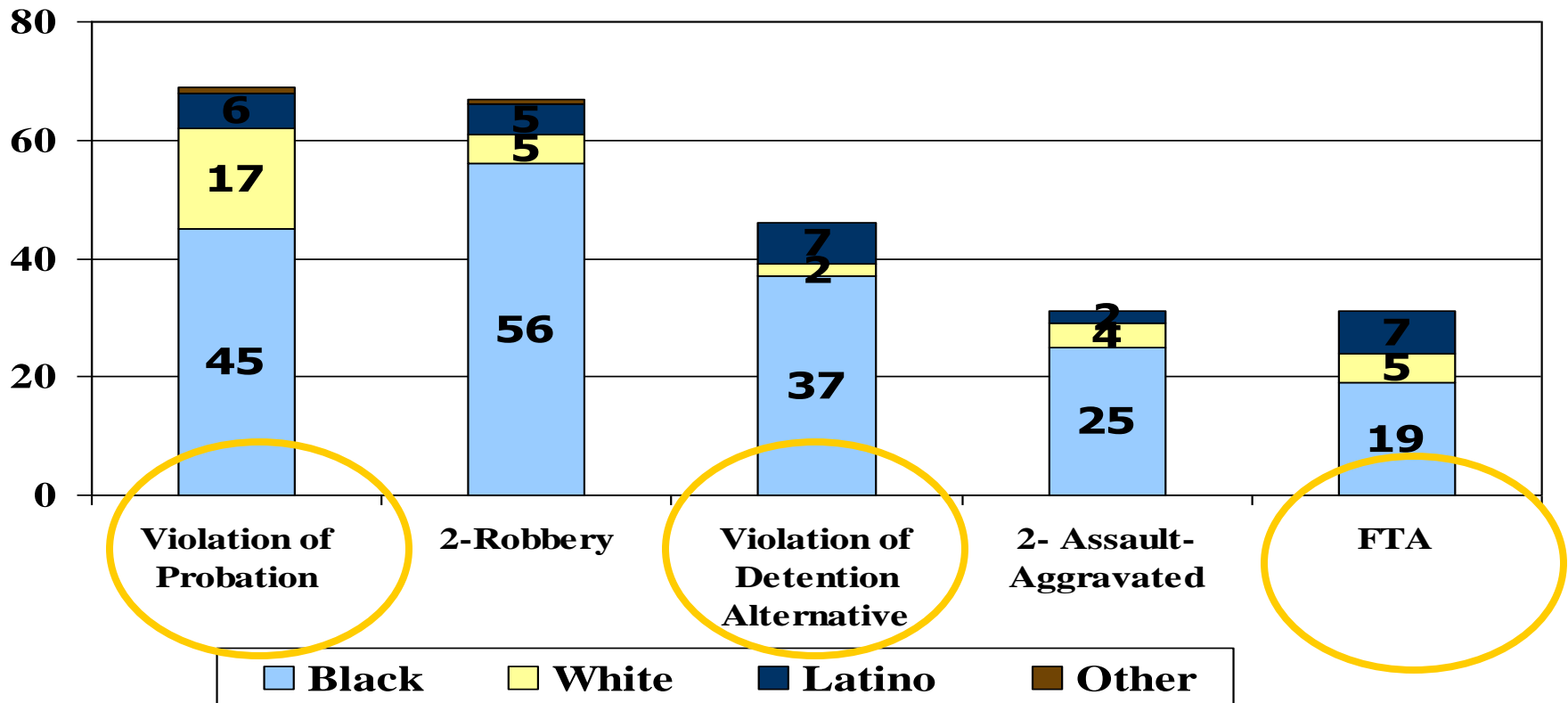
# Atlantic County/Burns Collaboration

- Average Daily Population (ADP)- Minorities comprise 85.2% of detention ADP.
- Admissions- youth of color comprise 85.0% of detention admissions.
- LOS- African Americans remain in detention an average of 13.4 days longer than Caucasian youth.

**Digging Deeper:  
Identify Target Populations**

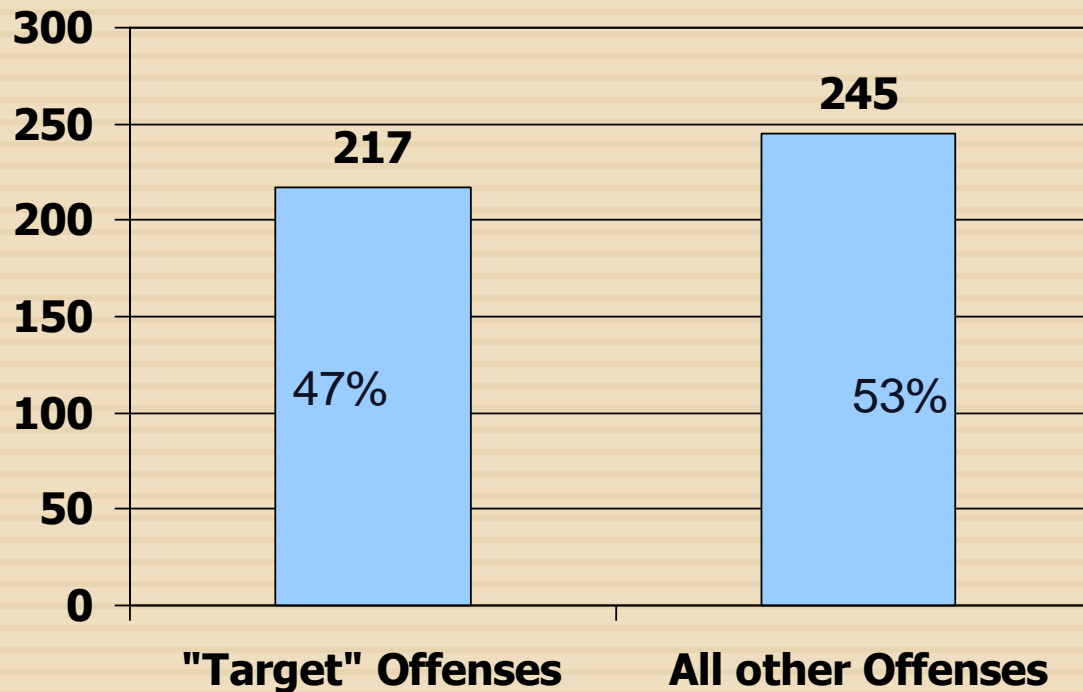
# Atlantic County Top 5 Offenses\*

## For All Youth (January 08 – June 2009)



- Three of the five top offenses contributing to detention are violations of probation, violations of detention alternatives and failures to appear.

# Atlantic County Target Offenses\* (January 2008 – June 2009)



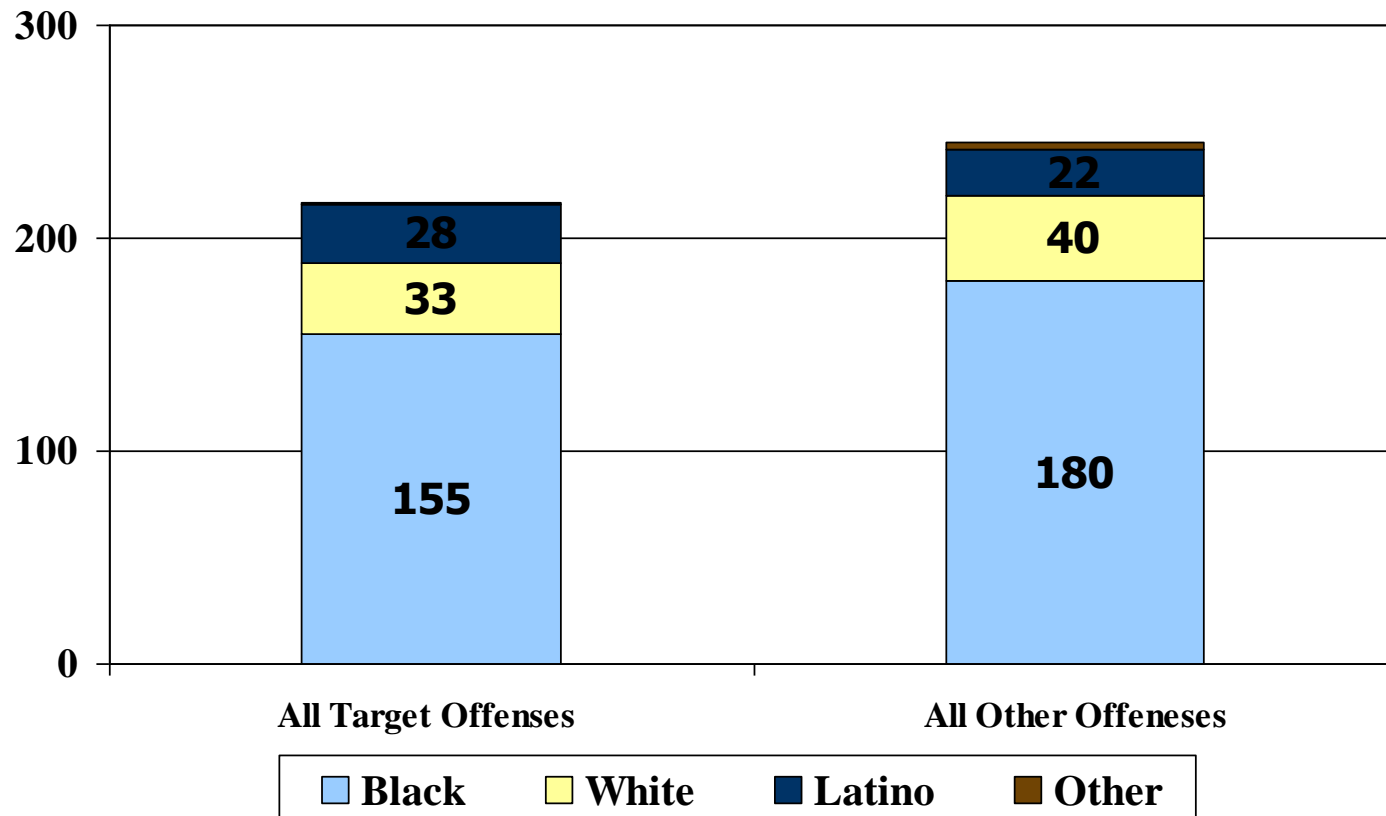
"Target" Offenses account for **47%** of all detention admissions

**\* Target Offenses include: Violation of Probation, Violation of Detention Alternative, All Simple Agg Assaults, FTA, CDS and PDP Offenses**

# Atlantic County Target Offenses\*

## For All Youth by Race/Ethnicity

(Jan – June 2009)



In the sample data set, 217 youth were detained for what BI believes is a low level or technical violation, and 84% of these youth are youth of color.

# Identifying a Starting Point: Digging Deeper into FTAs

## □ Additional Questions to Ask about FTAs

- What hearing did the youth fail to appear for?
- What percentage of minority youth were detained for failing to appear for each hearing type?

## □ Questions about accessing the data:

- How can we access these data?

# Digging Deeper into FTAs

## What Further Analyses Revealed:

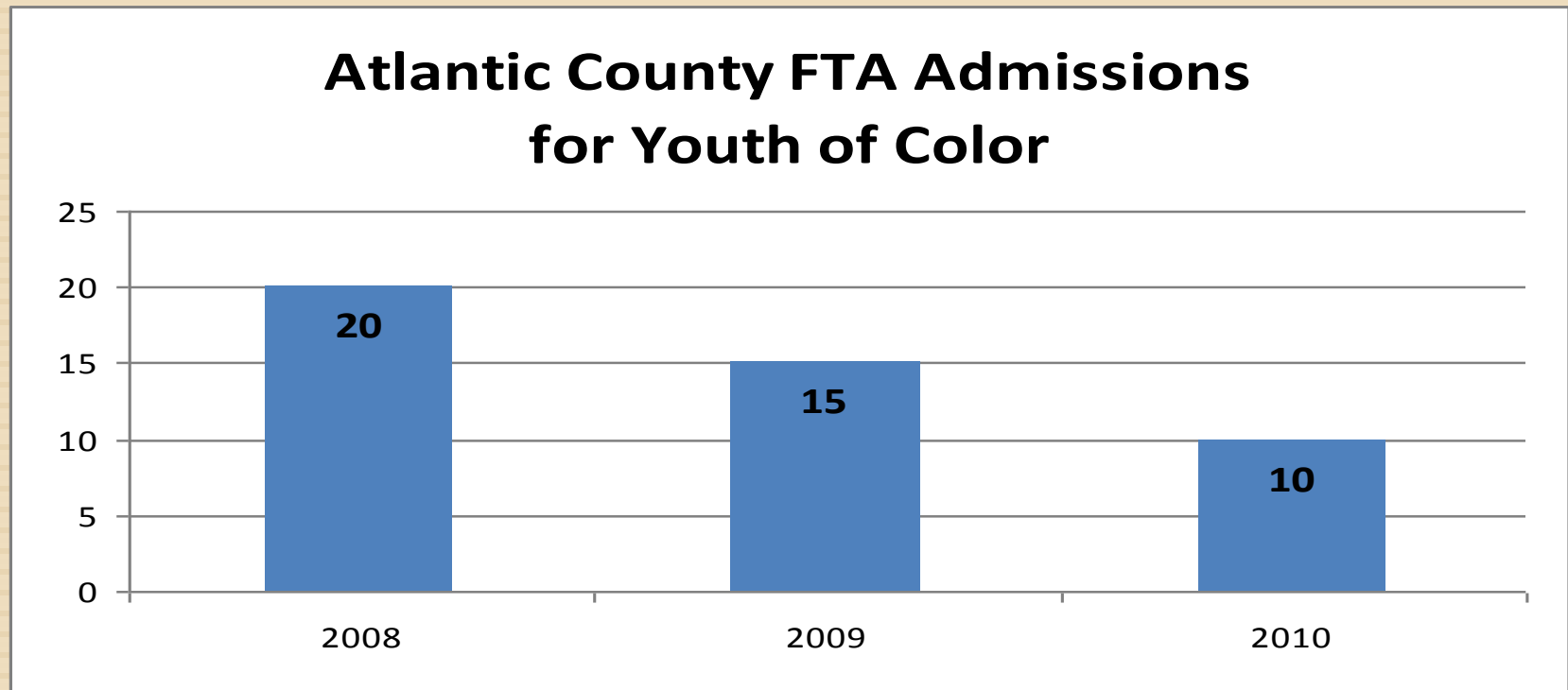
- From January to September 2009, 31% of youth were detained for failing to appear for a 5A hearing
- All of the youth detained for failing to appear for a 5A hearing were minorities
- From January to September 2009, 31% of youth were detained for failing to appear for a Plea hearing
- All of the youth detained for failing to appear for a plea hearing were minorities

# Recommendations and Strategies to Reduce FTA Detention Admissions

## □ **Prior to the judge issuing a BW:**

- The Public Defender must contact their clients who failed to appear to understand why the youth was unable to attend
- The alternative programs must remind all youth on alternatives of their court dates
- The Family Division must contact all youth who fail to appear for the 5A hearing to understand why the youth was unable to attend
- The Probation Department must remind all youth on probation of their court dates

# Monitoring Impact/Outcomes



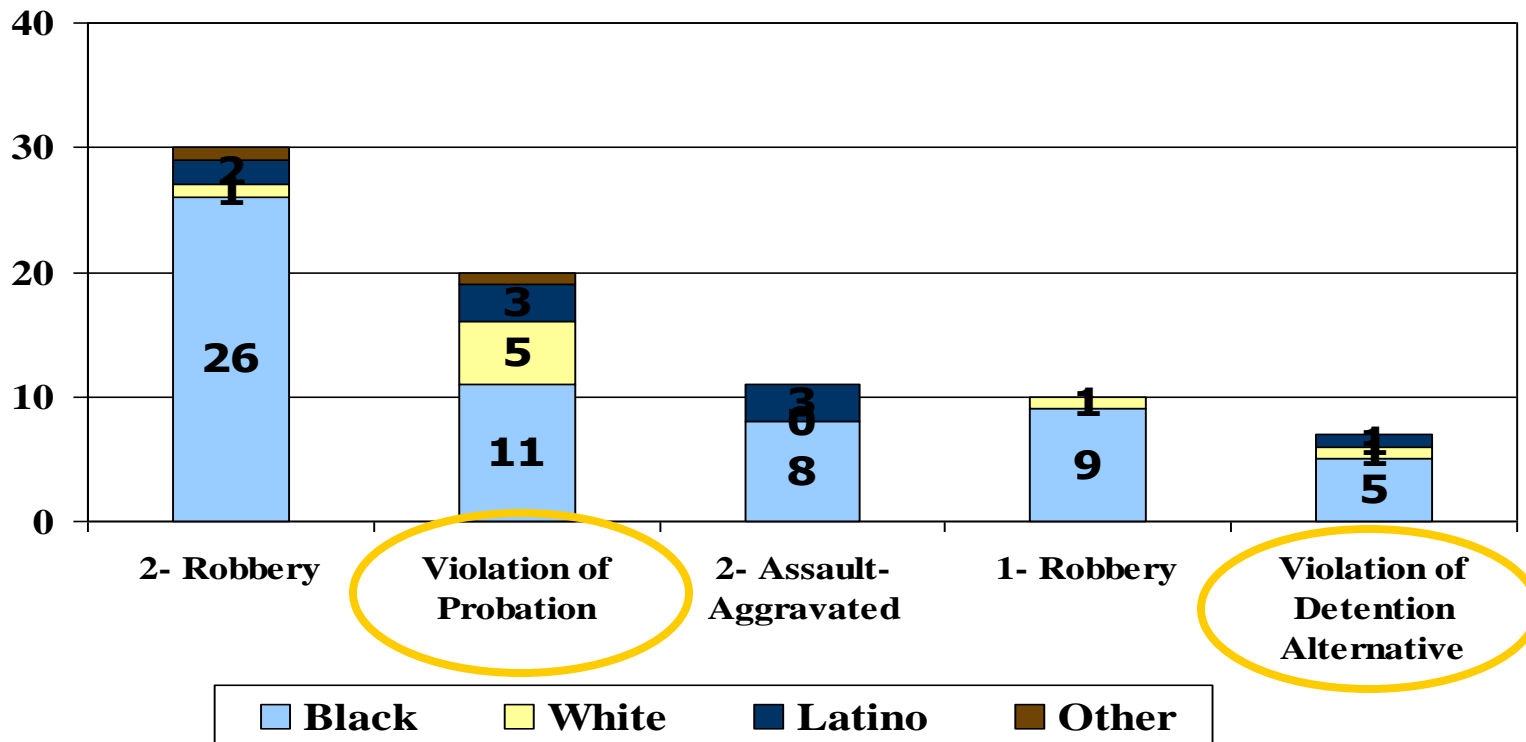
As a result, FTA admissions for youth of color dropped from 20 in 2008 to 10 in 2010, a **decrease of 50%**.

# Monmouth County/Burns Collaboration

- Average Daily Population (ADP)- Minorities comprise 90.9% of detention ADP, a +22.0% increase from 2003.
- Admissions- youth of color comprise 80.% of detention admissions, a +27.5% increase from 2003.
- LOS- Minority youth remained in detention an average of 22.7 days longer than White youth.

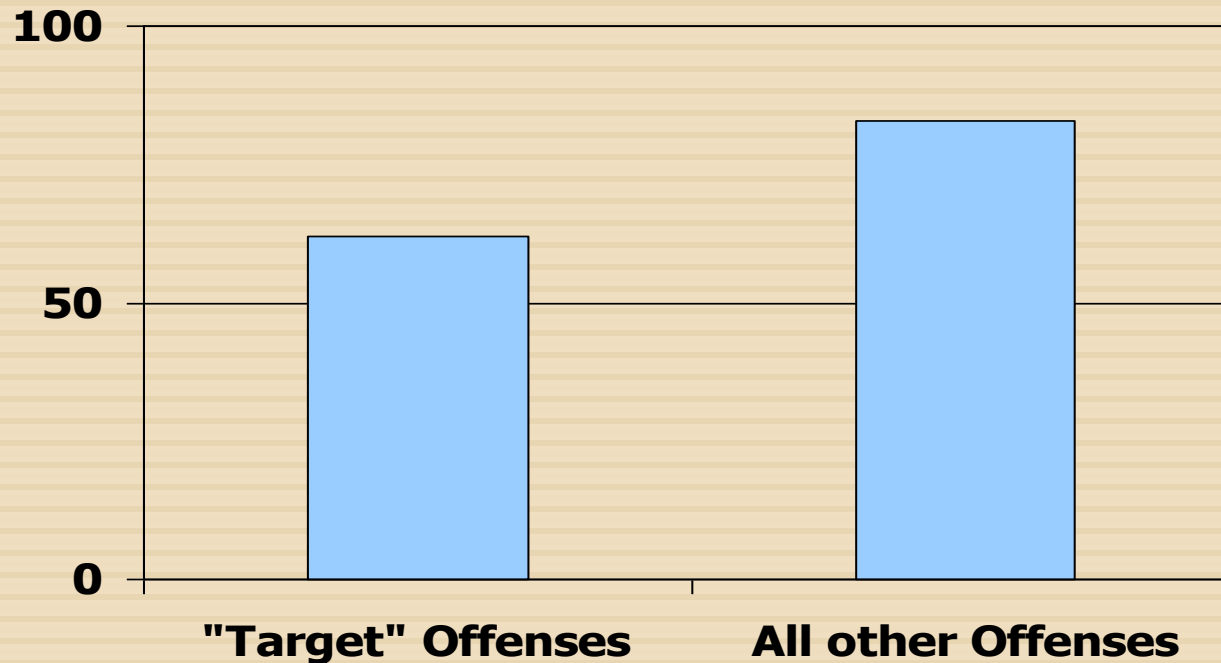
**Digging Deeper:**  
**Identify Target Populations**

# Monmouth County Top 5 Offenses\* For All Youth (Jan – June 2009)



- Two of the five top offenses contributing to detention are violations of probation and violations of detention alternatives.

# Monmouth County Target Offenses\* (Jan – June 2009)

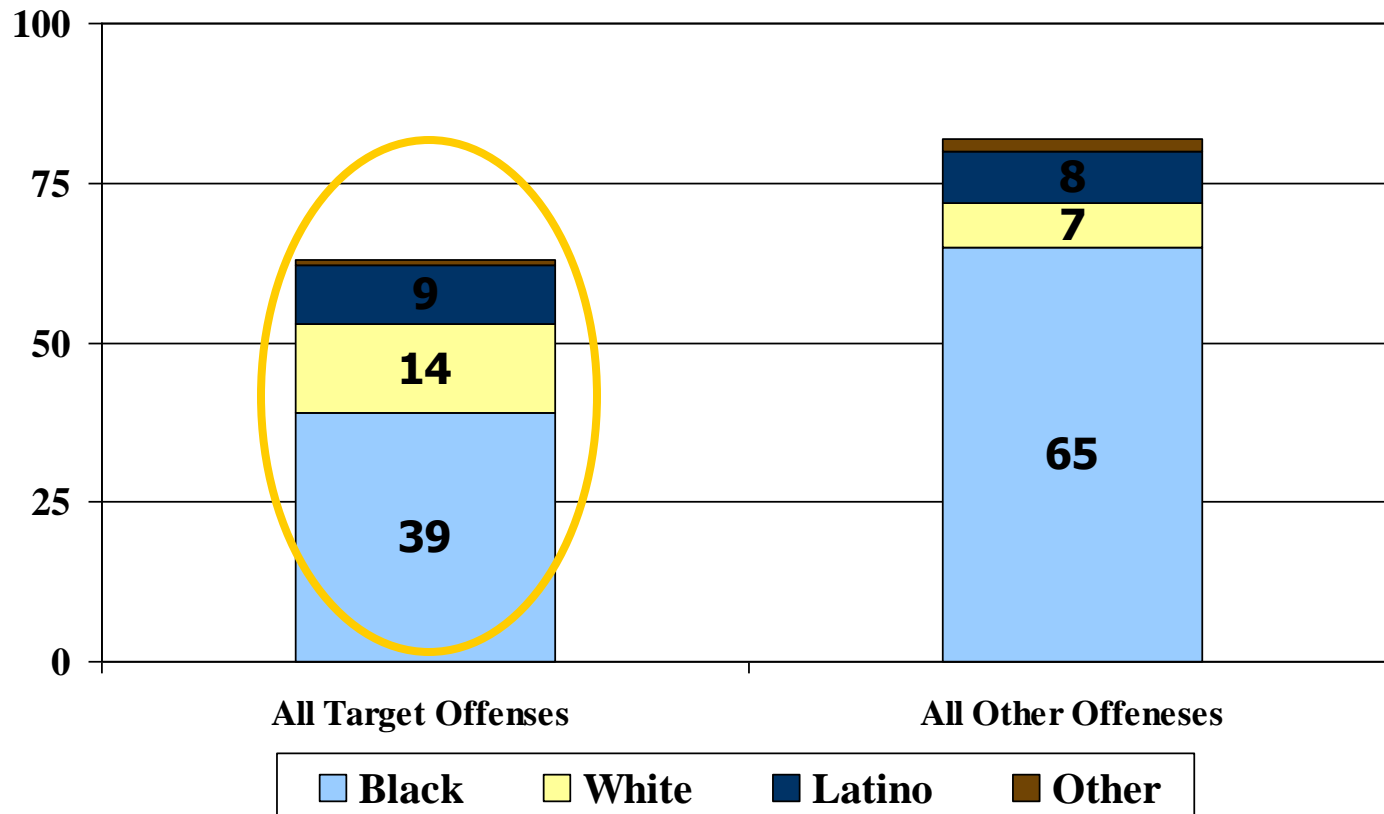


"Target" Offenses account for **43%** of all detention admissions

\* Target Offenses include: Violation of Probation, Violation of Detention Alternative, All Assaults, FTA, CDS and PDP Offenses

# Monmouth County Target Offenses\*

## (Jan – June 2009)



In the sample data set, 63 youth were detained for what BI believes is a low level offenses, VOPs, FTAs or violation of a detention alternative, and 78% of these youth are youth of color.

# Identifying a Starting Point: Digging Deeper: VOPs

## □ Additional Questions to Ask about VOPs

- What conditions of probation did youth violate?
- Are youth of color violating different conditions than white youth?
- What probation conditions were violated?
- How many admissions were for technical violations?  
How many were for new arrests?
- What was the underlying offense? Was the underlying offense detainable?

## □ Questions about accessing the data:

- How can we access these data?

# Digging Deeper: VOPs

## What Further Analyses Revealed:

- 56.7% of youth admitted to detention for a VOP (in 2008 and 2009) reside in **Asbury Park**, Neptune, Keansburg, and Long Branch
- Program Violations account for 72% (18) of VOP admissions.
- Majority of program violations are most often tied to failure to comply with drug treatment as well as behavior problems.

# Digging Deeper: VOPs

- Almost 30% of the program violations are from New Hope (D&A Program).
- 58.3% of all VOPs filed in 2008 are tied to program violations. Minority youth comprise 60.0% of these violations.
- 66.7% of all VOPs filed in 2009 are tied to program violations. Minority youth comprise 66.7% of these violations.
- 66.7% of youth with a VOP tied to a Program Violation are also involved with the child welfare system.

# Strategies to Reduce VOPs in Detention

- ***Issue for Collaborative:*** Identify ways to engage community stakeholders in identified geographic areas to provide additional support to youth on probation, especially youth placed in programs.
- ***Community Coaches:*** provide additional support to Probation Officers and Program Staff when a youth is in danger of being negatively discharged and/or running away from the program.

# Strategies to Reduce VOPs in Detention

- ***Geographic Focus:*** Work with youth in Asbury Park who have been disposed to a program placement
- ***Availability:*** available 24/7 and will work with probation staff to provide intervention services for youth who are at immediate risk of violating the terms of their probation/program placement.

# Strategies to Reduce VOPs in Detention

- Facilitate communication between the probation officer and the youth to reduce the unnecessary triggering of violations.
- To support compliance with probation, the intervention coaches will have a limited budget to engage youth in pro-social activities and activities that reduce anger and help the youth to calm down

# Plan for Monitoring Impact/Outcomes

- Ensure mechanism in place to track implementation of solution/strategy

*So you can...*

- Identify if expected outcomes are achieved?

*And...*

- If there any unintended consequences?

*And...*

- Troubleshoot Barriers/Challenges

# DMC Success in Jefferson County

- Over the last several years Jefferson County has:
  - ▣ Piloted and implemented a Juvenile Field Release Program in partnership with YMCA Safe Place Services which resulted in a 36% reduction in youth processed in detention
  - ▣ Reduced bench warrant detention admissions which resulted in a 55% reduction in youth detained on a bench warrant
  - ▣ Entered a resolution for the purpose of youth detention population management

# But the Work is Not Done . . .

- Continue to define the “It”
- Continue to define Success
- Continue to consider how to engage community partners
  - ▣ As part of the collaborative
  - ▣ To help enhance alternatives to secure detention